

Schuyler-Hamilton House
Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-35

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Schuyler-Hamilton House
Morristown, Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Morristown Chapter Daughters of the
American Revolution

Date of Erection: Before 1780

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame
construction

Interior walls - 2" vertical
plank plastered on both sides

Old random floor boards still
remain

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

This house is known as the Schuyler-Hamilton House because it was here that Elizabeth Schuyler came in 1780 to visit her aunt and uncle, Surgeon General and Mrs. Cochran, and while on this visit Alexander

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Hamilton won and wooed her. The house was the home of Dr. Jabez Canfield, who served as a surgeon in Spencer's Regiment, and at the time of the courtship he was located in Pennsylvania. His house was used by Dr. Cochran as his headquarters during the second encampment of the Colonial Army at Morristown in 1779-80.

Dr. Cochran had married General Philip Schuyler's only sister. In the spring of 1780, Elizabeth Schuyler, the general's second daughter journeyed from Albany to Morristown to visit her aunt. At that time the house stood next to the old Ford Mansion which was Washington's Headquarters. Soon the young officers started to call upon this attractive young girl. Among these was Alexander Hamilton, Washington's aid. By the time General Schuyler arrived at headquarters to confer with General Washington the romance had blossomed. General Schuyler gave his sanction and the youthful pair were betrothed and the wedding planned for an early date. The Canfield House was moved many years ago from its original site to the place which it now occupies near the corner of Morris and Oliphant Place.

In 1924 the Daughters of the American Revolution purchased and restored it. At that time it was in a very bad condition. Many missing details have been replaced, and appropriate colonial furniture and pictures placed in it. In the course of moving, all the masonry was demolished including all the fireplaces. The old framing, however, of the first floor shows that each room had a fireplace. The one which was located in the present small kitchen appears to have been a huge open fireplace with the customary side oven. The present kitchen may have been part of a large kitchen wing which has disappeared, old sketches show such a wing.

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Bibliography:

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Field Book and Drawings of Survey

Walter C. Pitt
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Reviewed Aug. 28. '36 - T.W.